

**□ PRESS EVENT THURSDAY, APRIL 2 AT 12 noon (EDT)**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – To address the growing prevalence of chronic disease in the United States, U.S. Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and John Cornyn (R-TX) and U.S. Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) will reintroduce the Healthy Workforce Act, vital legislation that would provide tax incentives to employers to implement workplace wellness programs. The U.S. Workplace Wellness Alliance will host a “Healthy Living for a Healthy Workforce” press conference with guest speakers Sens. Harkin and Cornyn and Reps. Blumenauer and Bono Mack on Thursday, April 2 at 12 noon (EDT) in the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, Senate Visitors Center 215. The event is a precursor to “National Workplace Wellness Week” (April 5 – 11), which encourages employers across the country to invest in the health of their employees by creating worksite employee health promotion programs. Worksite wellness programs are an important means of addressing the nation’s rising obesity rates, increasing prevalence of chronic disease and escalating health care costs, according to the American Heart Association.

For more information about the Healthy Workforce Act and “National Workplace Wellness Week,” visit [www.uswwa.org](http://www.uswwa.org) or [www.americanheart.org/workplacewellness](http://www.americanheart.org/workplacewellness).

**WHO:□□**

U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)  
U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)  
U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)  
U.S. Rep. Mary Bono Mack (R-CA)  
Randel Johnson, Vice President, Labor, Immigration & Employee Benefits, U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Craig Thorne, M.D., MPH, spokesperson, American Heart Association  
Michael Barry, CAE, Executive Director, American College of Preventive Medicine  
Janet Boyd, Director of Government Relations, Tax & Benefits, The Dow Chemical Company  
Candace DeMatteis, Policy Director, Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease  
Garry Lindsay, Managing Senior Fellow & Senior Program Officer, Partnership for Prevention

**WHAT:□□□**

“Healthy Living for a Healthy Workforce” press conference  
**WHERE:** U.S. Capitol Visitors

Center, Senate Visitors Center 215 Washington, DC

**WHEN:**

Thursday, April 2, 2009 12 noon (EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2009

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Kanika Lewis, American Heart Association, 202-785-7935